

Message Text

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SUBJECT: KHMER ISLAM MISSION TO ARAB STATES

REF: PHNOM PENH 9741

1. DURING JULY 25 MEETING, PRIME MINISTER GAVE ME FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON TRAVEL PLANS OF KHMER ISLAM MISSIONS TO ARAB COUNTRIES:

LON NOL AGREED TO DESPATCHING OF THREE KHMER RELIGIOUS DELEGATIONS, FIRST ONE TO DEPART PHNOM PENH BEFORE THE END OF JULY. THESE DELEGATIONS WOULD FIRST GO EITHER TO SAUDI ARABIA, EGYPT OR LIBYA, FROM WHERE THEY WOULD VISIT OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES. THE KHMER ISLAM DELEGATION FIRST GOING TO SAUDI ARABIA WOULD THEN VISIT BAHRAIN, QATAR, OMAN, LEBANON, JORDAN AND IRAN. THE OTHER DELEGATION VISITING EGYPT OR LIBYA WOULD TRAVEL FROM THERE TO MOROCCO, TUNISIA, KUWAIT, SUDAN, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, UGANDA, CHAD, NIGER, SOMALIA, YEMEN (ANA'S) AND SENEGAL. MOST OF THESE COUNTRIES HAVE ALREADY AGREED TO RECEIVE KHMER ISLAM DELEGATIONS.

3. IN PREPARATION FOR THESE TRIPS, KHMERS ARE HAVING TRANSLATED INTO ARABIC A CERTAIN NUMBER OF BASIC GKR POSITIONS PAPERS OR PROPAGANDA PAMPHLETS (SUCH AS CONFIDENTIAL

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"VERS LA LIBERTE"). SOME OF THESE ARE BEING PRINTED

IN KUALA LUMPUR AND SHOULD PERMIT KHMER MOSLEMS TO HIGHLIGHT THE ANTI-RELIGIOUS STANCE OF KHMER ROUGE.

4. SINCE SAUDI ARABIA HAS ALSO AGREED TO RECEIVE GKR FOREIGN MINISTER, WHO IS PRESENTLY TRAVELING IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, GKR IS SENDING LT. GENERAL SAK SUTSAKHAN TO JAKARTA TO MEET WITH SAUDI ARABIAN AMBASSADOR THERE IN ORDER TO SOUND HIM OUT WHETHER LONG BORET (IN HIS CAPACITY AS ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER) COULD COME INSTEAD OF GKR FOREIGN MINISTER. GKR DOES NOT WISH TO PLACE SAUDI ARABIA BEFORE FAIT ACCOMPLI AND THEREFORE WISHES TO RECEIVE GREEN LIGHT FROM SAUDI ARABIA BEFORE LONG BORET INITIATES TRAVEL. HOWEVER, PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT IF FOREIGN MINISTER KEUKY LIM COMPLETES HIS PEREGRINATIONS IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE IN TIME TO PROCEED DIRECTLY TO SAUDI ARABIA, THEN THERE WOULD BE NO NEED FOR HIM TO GO. ASKED WHAT I THOUGHT OF HIS SCHEME, I REPLIED THAT WHAT COUNTS IS SENDING OFFICIAL GKR REPRESENTATIVE TO SAUDI ARABIA QUICKLY SINCE SAUDI OFFER HAS ALREADY BEEN PENDING FOR MORE THAN THREE WEEKS. I AGREED THAT IF KEUKY LIM COULD NOT GO TO JIDDA IN NEAR FUTURE, LONG BORET SHOULD GO.

5. PRIME MINISTER THEN ASKED ME AGAIN ABOUT MY REACTION TO HIS MAKING WHIRLWIND TRIP THROUGH ASEAN CAPITALS DURING FIRST PART OF AUGUST TO GENERATE ACTIVE SUPPORT FOR THE GKR. SINCE I HAD NOT HEARD FROM THE DEPARTMENT ON THIS SUBJECT (PARA 4 REFTEL), I TOOK IT UPON MYSELF TO ENDORSE IDEA, POINTING OUT, HOWEVER, THAT LONG BORET WAS ALSO NEEDED IN PHNOM PENH TO COPE WITH THE MANY INTERNAL PROBLEMS. THEREFORE IF LONG BORET WERE TO GO TO THE ASEAN CAPITALS, HE SHOULD LIMIT HIS ABSENCE FROM PHNOM PENH TO ABSOLUTE MINIMUM. LONG BORET REPLIED THT IF TRIP MATERIALIZES, HE WOULD TRAVEL BY SMALL KAF PLAN AND TRIP WOULD NOT TAKE MORE THAN THREE OR FOUR DAYS.

6. COMMENT: LONG BORET APPEARS DETERMINED TO FOLLOW UP ON THE JULY 9 GKR INITIATIVE AND KEEP UP THE CONFIDENTIAL

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MOMENTUM GENERATED BY THIS PROPOSAL. AS FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER AND SUCCESSFUL CHAMPION OF KHMER CAUSE BEOFE UN LAST YEAR, HE APPEARS TO PREFER DEALING WITH FOREIGN AFFAIRS THAN WITH THE MANY PRESSING DOMESTIC PROBLEMS. DEAN

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